

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ZAGREB 00525 151341Z  
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00  
L-01 DHA-02 DODE-00 SP-02 PM-03 /041 W  
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R 141112Z JUN 77  
FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4547  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ZAGREB 525

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINR, PINS, YO  
SUBJECT: FORMER YUGOSLAV POLITICAL LEADERS ALLEGEDLY STILL  
ALIVE AND VERY DISCREETLY ACTIVE

1. A ZAGREB DOCTOR WITH AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN POLITICS DESCRIBED YUGOSLAVIA AS IN EFFECT CARRYING WATER ON BOTH SHOULDERS -- THE WEST ON THE ONE AND THE EAST ON THE OTHER -- AND FOR WHOM THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE REPRESENTS A PARTICULARLY TRYING AND SENSITIVE EVENT.  
THE POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC REALITIES FOR YUGOSLAVIA IS, AS HE EXPLAINED, THAT THE YUGOSLAV LEADERSHIP MUST STRIVE TO ACHIEVE SOME BALANCE IN ITS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EAST AND THE WEST. A COMPLICATING FEATURE IS THAT YUGOSLAVIA IS AN AUTOCRATIC STATE IN WHICH, HOWEVER, YUGOSLAV CITIZENS PRIZE THE FACT THAT THEY GENERALLY ENJOY THE RIGHT TO TRAVEL ABROAD FREELY.

2. THE ZAGREB DOCTOR TOLD THE CONSUL GENERAL THAT FORMER POLITICAL LEADERS WHO WERE EXPELLED OR RESIGNED FROM THEIR POSITIONS IN 1971-72, CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN THE LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE, MAINTAIN POLITICAL CONTACTS, BUT VERY DISCREETLY AND OUT OF PUBLIC VIEW. THEY DO NOT DARE SHOW THEMSELVES POLITICALLY WHILE TITO IS ALIVE. FOR EXAMPLE, HE CLAIMED THAT KOCA  
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POPOVIC, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE SFRY PRESIDENCY, IS A POPULAR FIGURE, ACTIVE, AND LIKELY TO PLAY AN INFLUENTIAL ROLE IN THE POST-TITO PERIOD. ALSO, THAT PEOPLE LIKE MARKO NIKEZIC, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS OF SERBIA; MIKO TRIPOLO, FORMER MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU OF THE LCY; AND SAVKA DABCEVIC-KUCAR, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS OF CROATIA; AS WELL AS OTHERS ELSEWHERE IN YUGOSLAVIA, HAVE IN

THE GOAL OF FURTHER DEMOCRATIZING YUGOSLAVIA AND ARE BIDDING THEIR TIME. HE SAID THESE LEADERS ARE NOT SEPARATISTS; THEY ARE YUGOSLAVS WHO FAVOR MORE DEMOCRACY AND GREATER FREEDOMS WITHIN THE COUNTRY. WHILE THEY SEEK NO CONTACT WITH WESTERN OFFICIALS, HE SAID THAT USG POLICY STATEMENTS EMPHASIZING HUMAN RIGHTS AND AFFIRMING THE US AS STANDARD BEARER FOR DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA.

3. COMMENT: IN EFFECT THIS YUGOSLAV IS URGING THE US TO STAY THE COURSE AND TO CONTINUE TO ARTICULATE ITS PRESENT POLICIES. HE IS SAYING THAT IT IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THOSE SEEKING TO DEMOCRATIZE YUGOSLAVIA TO HAVE DIRECT CONTACT WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS, NOR IS IT AT PRESENT APPROPRIATE FOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS TO HAVE CONTACT WITH THEM IN TODAY'S YUGOSLAVIA. WE WOULD AGREE.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE NONE OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS LISTED HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY AND WE DO NOT PLAN TO SEEK THEM OUT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS APPROPRIATE OR NECESSARY TO FORSWEAR CONTACTS WITH "THOSE SEEKING TO DEMOCRATIZE YUGOSLAVIA."

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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